

October 4, 2005

Dear Resident:

In recent years, downtown Norfolk has transformed itself from a traditional business community to a bustling urban environment. Restaurants and retail establishments now adorn the streets of downtown; empty buildings have been converted into loft apartments and condominiums; and theaters and entertainment establishments have solidified Norfolk as the cultural center of Hampton Roads. At the same time, we are experiencing a historic level of new construction. Office towers and high rise condominiums under construction are taking the place of surface parking lots. As a downtown resident, we know that you not only have witnessed this tremendous renaissance, but have been an integral part of it.

As with any vibrant downtown, there is an ever growing demand for convenient short-term parking. This demand, once experienced predominantly in the daytime, has extended well into the evening and weekends. To meet this challenge, the city has taken a proactive role by establishing over 18,500 off-street spaces located in 28 parking facilities.

On-street parking continues to be a scarce resource. In the parking management industry it is recognized that the highest and best use of on-street parking spaces is for short-term use that encourages frequent turnover. To this end, the City has evaluated its current policies and determined that changes are required that will effect current on-street residential parkers.

Effective November 1, 2005, the City of Norfolk will no longer offer on-street residential parking permits for metered parking. While we realize this will be a change for you, we have taken the following steps to minimize its impact:

- Off-street parking for residents will be designated in each downtown parking facility and made available to residents on a first come first serve basis.
- Current residential on-street permit holders will be given a six-month grace period during which the rate of \$62.50 for six months will apply for residential off-street parking spaces.
- Once the six-month grace period has expired, May 1, 2006, residents will be required to pay the residential off-street rate. This rate ranges from \$12.50–\$50.50 per month, depending on facility and length of stay requirement.
- Residential loading zones will be established adjacent to residential buildings. These residential loading zones will facilitate loading and unloading of materials and merchandise (such as groceries) and to allow short trips into your residence, during a designated period of time (i.e., thirty minutes).

Although change is imminent, we seek your input as we begin the process of designating residential off-street spaces and residential loading zones. The Division of Parking will hold an open house on Thursday, October 13, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Office located at 230 E. Main Street (second floor of the Main Street Garage). During this open house, management from the Division of Parking will be available to meet with you and discuss this change as well as discuss various options for residential parking in the Central Business District. Please call Sharon Latta at 664-6228 to schedule an appointment during this open house. If you would like to make arrangements for off-street parking prior to this open house, you can do so by contacting our Customer Service Center at 664-6222. If you are unable to attend this meeting you may also e-mail your comments or questions to us at [parker@norfolk.gov](mailto:parker@norfolk.gov). In your email, please include your place of residency and a listing of your top three preferences for off-street parking. A map of downtown including all of our parking facilities can be found on our website at [www.norfolk.gov/parking](http://www.norfolk.gov/parking).

We realize that changes of this nature can be unsettling; we are committed to working with you during this transition period. With your help and cooperation we can continue to make downtown Norfolk an even better place to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

Steven G. de Mik  
Director of Finance and Business Services

CC. Rob E. Maroney, Parking Director